

The Merriest of Christmases to You, Statesman Readers!
That Is Our Sincerest Wish for You Today. — The Oregon Statesman Staff.

The Oregon Statesman

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It's Complete
Watch your Oregon Statesman. See how it covers the news completely, presents it interestingly each day, with due attention to local happenings.

Weather
Cloudy with showers today; general rains Thursday. Max. temp. Tuesday 65, Min. 45. Southwest wind. B. Rains .18 inch. River 5.6 feet.

Bethlehem Blacked out; Informal Truce on

Hope Is Theme Of Roosevelt's Yuletide Talk

Christmas Is Not Merry This Year, but Happy One Is His Wish

Voices Plea That World May Have Peace and Resume Progress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—(AP)—President Roosevelt sent forth a "Happy Christmas" greeting to the nation tonight in an address warning against cynicism and defeatism and praying for a "peaceful chance" for humanity to strive for world betterment.

Lighting a 30-foot cedar Christmas tree at dusk near the White House, he observed that, except for little children, Christmas, 1940, could not be "merry."

"But for most of us it can be a happy Christmas," he continued, "if by happiness we mean that we have done with doubts, that we have set our hearts against fear, that we still believe in the golden rule of all mankind, that we intend to live more purely in the spirit of Christ, and that by our words, as well as our deeds, we will strive forward in faith and in hope and in love."

The thought of conditions in other lands where the Christmas spirit burns less brightly obviously hung heavily on the president's heart. This was apparent in his address to the throng of some 8,000, he observed that, except for the "astounding broadcast, and in some extemporaneous remarks preceding his speech."

"If We Are All Here" Ominous Phrase

In these Mr. Roosevelt proposed to have the tree and the spectators inside the White House grounds a next year and to deliver his address from the White House porch, "if we are all here." The qualification recalled his remark upon leaving Warm Springs recently, when he expressed a hope to return in March "if the world survives."

The ceremony this year took place, as usual, in a park known as the Ellipse between the White house and the Washington monument, where a living cedar had been decked with ornaments and lights which sprang to vari-colored life when the president pressed a button.

Declaring it "unintelligent" to be defeatist, Mr. Roosevelt said: "Crisis may beget crisis, but the progress underneath does not wholly halt—it goes forward."

He saw "a definite betterment" for the human race compared with the dark when Charles Dickens wrote the "Christmas Carol," which Mr. Roosevelt reads to his family every Christmas eve, but he said there still was "much—oh so much—to do."

"Most of all we ask a chance to do it, yes, a peaceful chance to do it," he continued.

Do It Voluntarily
Way, not Enforced

"We want to do it the voluntary way—and most human beings in all the world want to do it the voluntary way, we do not want to have the way imposed on the world by the conquest of the world by the sword."

He intimated there was no isolation for anyone from wars, remarking: "Mankind is all one—and what happens in distant lands tomorrow will leave its mark on the happiness of our Christmases to come."

The president drove to the ceremony with his wife and mother; his sister-in-law, Mrs. J. R. Roosevelt; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, jr.; Harry L. Hopkins, former commerce secretary, and the latter's eight-year-old daughter, Diana.

Greek Relief Aid Here Appreciated

George Paulus, proprietor of the Rex Shine parlor, on State street and chairman of the local committee for Greek relief, yesterday took occasion to thank people for their contributions to wounded and orphans of the Italo-Greek war.

A total of approximately \$210 has been contributed to the local committee, he reported, and will be added to national donations for the relief of suffering which has resulted from the war.

Paulus expressed the belief that victory would eventually fall to the arms of his countrymen now fighting in Albania. He himself is a native of Olympia, north of Athens, where the Olympic games were instituted in the sixth century before Christ.

"TRIVIAL OF THE SHEPHERDS"



—From the painting by Henri Leroite

Everybody Remembered; Christmas Cheer Baskets Go to 350 Families

In One Ear..

—Paul Hauser's Column

On a low hill overlooking a cluster of darkened tents raised against the sand and the wind in the depression between the hill and another low and rocky rise stood a soldier. He was a sentry. His name was Amon Poole. The island of New Zealand was his home, but he was far from there. The hill upon which he stood and kept lonely guard over the tents of a detachment of His Majesty's troops was in Palestine. Not far away across the pebbly, rocky ground was Bethlehem.

Amon Poole walked fifty paces north, fifty paces south. At each alternate pace he cursed the lack that he assigned him and his comrades to a quiet watch in Palestine while some hundreds of miles away across Suez and across Egypt other New Zealanders were fighting Italians.

It was bitter cold. Occasionally as Amon Poole kicked stones under his feet and swung his arms to warm them he longed for the warmth and lights and laughter of a friendly pub. As he thought of this his paces grew shorter and shorter, slower and slower.

Amon Poole was almost drowsy when he heard what seemed to be a faint flutter of wings. He looked about, searching as far as

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Holiday Buying Is Greatest In Decade; Hopes Exceeded

(By The Associated Press) Christmas shoppers throughout the nation rang down the curtain on Yuletide buying in the first year of the "fateful forties" Tuesday night in a surge of spending unaged in a decade or longer.

From across the nation came reports that were almost monotonous in their uniformity: "Best in my memory"; "the biggest since 1929"; "Never saw anything like it."

They were issued by some of the country's largest merchants; by heads of chambers of commerce and trade associations and by individual corporations engaged in the manufacture of Christmas goods.

Dozens of Agencies Provide Cheer in Some Form With Program Well Coordinated; Salvation Army-Statesman Fund Exceeds \$450

Whether or not this is going to be a Merry Christmas is up to each individual from now on but the Christmas Cheer agencies, with the cooperation of thousands of generous citizens, have done their part. Every family or individual known to be in need has been provided for. And that, in brief, is the story of a well-coordinated program engaged in by a score

Santa Is Greeted By Mild Weather

Except in "Playgrounds" Florida, California Which Have Flood

(By The Associated Press) The usually delightful winter playgrounds, Florida and California, are experiencing a mess of "unusual" Christmas weather.

Forecasters A. J. Knarr of Chicago said those states easily captured the dubious honors for "the worst weather in the nation" yesterday.

Drenching rains soaked Florida and spread into Georgia and Alabama. California, too, had torrential rain as well as an 82-mile wind near San Francisco.

Virtually all the rest of the country had mild and mostly fair weather, meantime, Knarr said.

Knarr outlined the Christmas day prospects this way: Rain continuing along the Pacific coast, in most of the territory west of the Rocky mountains in northern Florida and spreading through the South Atlantic states.

Generally fair in the rest of the southern and the midwest states, cloudy in the eastern states with rain beginning there tonight.

The Rio Grande valley in Texas having probably the finest weather in the country, bright with the mercury in the 60s.

Light snow had fallen or was forecast along the west slope of the Rockies but in the northern extremity of that area it has already turned to rain.

Chicago enjoyed 51-degree weather yesterday and was due for similarly mild conditions today.

Minneapolis, Minn., had its warmest Christmas eve since 1891 when the mercury rose to 44 degrees.

In northern states old snow in varying amounts remained on the ground in the Dakotas, Minnesota, northern Iowa, northern Wisconsin.

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Greeks Harry Foe as Bardia Siege Goes on

New Triumphs Reported in Mountains After Chimara Capture

British Could Take City but Delay to Prevent Needless Losses

ATHENS, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Greek troops carrying out bayonet attacks on the Italians despite heavy snows have captured prisoners, taken "large quantities of material," and won new "appreciable victories," it was reported tonight.

The Greek high command reported eight guns were seized by its troops along with the Italian prisoners and war material in local engagements.

The new triumphs were said by government sources to have been won in the mountains northeast of Chimara, the Adriatic coastal port already wrested from the Italians.

A government spokesman said fascist positions north and east of Premet in the central sector also were stormed and captured in widespread Christmas eve battles.

"After the victory of Chimara, the Italians withdrew northwestward," he said. "They intend to offer resistance from strong natural positions at Logapa pass, south of Valona."

"Our troops fighting away from the coast in the mountains northeast of Chimara continued to advance and dislodged the enemy from new positions."

"These positions were protected by barbed wire. Farther to the east where the snow is fairly deep and it is bitterly cold, the Greeks are still on the offensive with satisfactory results."

By EDWARD KENNEDY WITH BRITISH FORCES OUTSIDE BARDIA, Libya, Dec. 24.—(AP)—The battle for Bardia warmed into a great artillery duel this Christmas eve with guns booming on both sides and the British units drawing slowly nearer the ring of fortresses encircling the town.

The steady flow of reinforcements, including tanks and much artillery crossing into Libya, leaves no doubt that the British are determined to break this strong outpost of Italy's North Africa possession, and possibly plan to go beyond it in a sweeping operation.

"We could go in and take Bardia," the Australian captain in command of one unit told me on the battlefield. "But it would probably cost a good many lives, so it's better to keep hammering at them. Then when we get"

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Nazi Army Chief Hints Invasion Planned Soon

Sea Protection Slight Says von Brauchitsch

Merely Waiting Fuehrer's Command, Statement; Hitler Visits Troops; Italians Reject Churchill Plea; Resent Eden Choice

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Amid the big guns which point at England from the German-occupied French coast, Field Marshal General Walther von Brauchitsch, commander-in-chief of Adolf Hitler's army, declared today: "The ocean can protect England only so long as it suits us."

The commander-in-chief made what German sources said was a surprise visit to a long-range battery on the channel coast (one is situated at Cap Gris Nez) and, from there, spoke over a German-wide radio hookup to the German army.

His words indicated that German plans for invasion of England are in no sense obsolete.

"I know," von Brauchitsch told the troops, "that you are all just burning with desire at last to meet the English, and that you are merely awaiting the Fuehrer's command to do so."

Just one task lies ahead of the army, he said, and that is to "knock to the ground this last embittered adversary"—England—"and thereby compel peace to issue forth. It's a question of breaking England's one-sided hegemony."

Of the German war dead, he said: "Nothing so binds people together as blood spent."

With von Brauchitsch on the "invasion coast," Adolf Hitler left Berlin for an undisclosed destination.

Hitler is observing Christmas with the war workers and soldiers (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

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Bombers Stay Away; Reasons Not Indicated

Weather Is Bad Anyhow; Yuletide Parties Are Held in Britain

But Lancashire's Rescue Crews Still Seeking Victims of Raid

BETHELEHEM, Palestine, Dec. 25.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—This little Judean city was shrouded in its first blackout in history while the ageless drama of Christ's birth was reenacted early today at the Church of the Nativity in bomb-proofed bloom instead of the traditional glaze of Christmas light.

Even the bonfires in shepherd's fields about the city were put out early—lest they guide Italian air raiders to the little city.

And thus the line of pilgrims moved slowly and carefully into the town by starlight—for the observance just as the three wisemen came centuries ago by light of the star of Bethlehem to worship the Christ child.

All other holy places in this shrine of Christendom were blacked out too and filled with the gloom of war-time.

But no feeling of utility was apparent among the hundreds of pilgrims at the Church of the Nativity.

Instead, peace was their message, peace on earth and good will to all men.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Christmas came peacefully to bomb-scarred Britain today.

No bursting bombs, crackling gunfire—not even the ominous drone of hostile planes which have disturbed the British Kingdom for months on end both sides in their subdued Christmas observances and celebrations.

The quiet of blacked-out London was duplicated in the kingdom's countryside and towns, industrial centers and seaports. Not since yesterday's daylight hours were any reports made of aerial conflict.

Whether it was an unofficial Christmas truce was not known early today.

There was a possibility that the weather might have caused the death of aerial activity.

A low ceiling of dense clouds hung over Dover strait—raiders' pathway from Europe—with a light mist in the channel and the sea choppy. There was an east wind.

Britons held their parties and celebrations with one ear cocked for the sound they hoped they would not hear—the eerie wail of the air raid siren.

No Celebration in Lancashire Area

But there was little time for celebrating in the Lancashire area of England's industrial northwest where rescue workers still were probing the ruins for victims of a massive German mauling Monday night. Heavy casualties, including many killed, and widespread damage were inflicted in this hour-long attack.

(The Germans identified the town as Manchester, one of the world's largest cotton textile centers, which they said was heavily attacked for the second successive night.)

A "considerable number" of heavy caliber high explosive bombs and incendiaries were showered on this town, and the British announced, three hospitals, two air raid shelters, numerous houses, shops and a church either were damaged or destroyed.

Thirteen persons were believed killed by a bomb which hit the administration building of one hospital, at least seven were killed in a demolished tavern and a group of firemen were killed while fighting a fire started by the raiders. Many persons were left homeless and were being fed at communal kitchens.

But despite these scars of war, everywhere Britons tried to make the best of this Christmas.

Dimly-lighted trains sped through the night, well-filled with late shoppers laden with Christmas packages. The streets were crowded too, with those hurrying home or pleasure-bent to Christmas eve parties.

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Holiday Fatality List Grows Fast

109 Dead From Accidents Few Hours After Start of Yuletide Period

(By The Associated Press) With the Christmas holiday season but a few hours old, the nation's toll of fatalities mounted to 109, due mainly to traffic accidents.

Automobile accidents accounted for 75 deaths during the first hours of the holiday period, while 31 other deaths were due to various causes. A woman and five children were burned to death in their Maryland home.

Ohio led the traffic count with 14 victims. Two others died from other causes.

Other violent deaths included two suicides in Nebraska and one in Missouri and a drowning in the New York metropolitan area. A man, kicked by a horse, died in Texas.

Deaths by states: California, 4 traffic; Colorado, 2 traffic; Connecticut, 2 traffic, 1 other; Delaware, 1 traffic; Florida, 3 traffic; Georgia, 7 traffic, 1 other; Illinois, 1 traffic, 1 other; Indiana, 4 traffic, 4 other; Iowa, 1 traffic, 3 other; Maryland, 2 traffic.

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Lumber Freighter Reported Sinking

Stanwood, Which Assisted in Rescuing Davenport, Has Difficulties

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Coast guard and other craft sped to the assistance early today of the coastal lumber freighter Stanwood, which reported itself in a "sinking condition" in heavy seas 15 miles off Fort Bragg.

The 627-ton ship, laden with a heavy lumber load, left Portland December 21 for San Francisco. Shipping men here said she carried a crew of about 19 in command of Captain Clemensen.

Coast guard headquarters here said the freighter Arkansas and Hecate, which were in the vicinity of the Stanwood, started for her position as soon as she asked help.

The coast guard lifeboat crew from Point Arena also started, but was having difficulties because of heavy seas, and the cutter Shawnee prepared to leave from Eureka.

Exact nature of the trouble was not reported by the Stanwood, which is operated by the W. R. Chamberlin Co.

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All Records Fall, Salem Postoffice

All records have gone by the boards at the Salem postoffice, Postmaster Henry R. Crawford said yesterday.

An estimated figure of better than 600,000 letters have been posted and canceled in the local office during the Christmas rush, which figure will exceed by better than 100,000 the total posted during the holiday rush of 1939.

Factories delivery will be made during the forenoon today for the convenience of patrons of the Salem office. Crawford said that the postal force was "up" on package delivery and that every package posted last night would be delivered today, providing it was addressed correctly.

Trains that are running behind schedule will be accommodated by the Christmas day delivery, Crawford said.

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American Woman Released by Nazi

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Dec. 24.—(AP)—A Christmas eve message from the state department at Washington tonight notified Chester A. Kahn, Syracuse, that his sister, Mrs. Etta Kahn Shiber, had been released by German authorities after her arrest in Paris, France.

There was no further word of when the release took place nor any indication of why Mrs. Shiber had been in custody.

Mrs. Shiber, widow of William N. Shiber, former telegraph editor of the New York Journal, had made her home with friends in Paris since the death of her husband three years ago.

Kahn received word December 15 Mrs. Shiber had been taken into custody in German-held Paris.

All State Institutions Have Christmas Trees

Christmas trees were held at virtually all of the state institutions in the Salem area Tuesday night, and will be followed by special dinners Christmas day.

Governor Charles A. Sprague and Mrs. Sprague are scheduled to visit a number of the institutions Wednesday.

"We pray God," he added, "that it may so happen."

The church itself could not be called upon to favor one over another of "the contrasting systems which are part of our times and dependent upon them," he said, since her "sole longing" was to provide to all the world's peoples "the clear waters of the fountain of life."

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McNary to Enjoy Christmas Dinner

Senator Charles L. McNary, resting at his home here after battling with pneumonia for several weeks, will be able to join his family at Christmas dinner, his physician announced Tuesday.

Reports from the McNary home indicated that the senator is recovering his strength satisfactorily and probably will leave for Washington shortly after January 1. The definite date of his departure has not yet been determined.

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